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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/12/2019

TAGS: KNNP PARM IAEA MNUC IR SY TRGY

SUBJECT: IAEA REPORT ON SYRIA: GERMANY DECLINES TO DO

NATIONAL STATEMENT, PREFERS JOINT EU STATEMENT

REF: STATE 60334

Classified By: POLITICAL MINISTER COUNSELOR JEFF RATHKE. REASONS: 1.4 (B) AND (D).

(C) Post delivered reftel points to MFA IAEA Unit Chief Martin Langer on June 12, strongly encouraging Germany to deliver a strong national statement on Syria at the June 15-19 IAEA Board of Governors meeting in the wake of the latest IAEA report. Langer agreed with the U.S. on the seriousness of the situation and the need to issue strong statements calling on Syria to cooperate with the IAEA. However, he said that Germany and other EU countries felt that their concerns would carry much more weight if combined together in a single EU statement. He noted that this was the whole premise of the EU common foreign and security policy (CFSP). Therefore, Germany did not plan to make a separate national statement on Syria. Langer said there would be a joint EU statement and that Germany would let that statement represent its position. Koenig